(c) Estimated Central component of this project is Rs. 56.00 lakhs.

Promotion of Heritage hotels in Arunachal Pradesh

2411. SHRI NABAM REBIA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are encouraging promotion of Heritage hotels in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the location-wise details thereof; and

(c) the details of such hotels set up in the State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism encourages the promotion of Heritage hotels in the country including the State of Arunachal Pradesh and has formulated guidelines for approval of Heritage hotels at project stage as well as the guidelines for classification of operational Heritage hotels. Heritage hotels both at project and at operational stage are eligible for various incentives including income tax exemptions, interest subsidy on loan taken from TFCI, IFCI, IDBI, ICICI, SIDBI, State Financial Corporation and State Industrial Corporation, concessional custom duty, import of special items etc.

(b) So far, no application for approval of any Heritage hotel at project stage or for the classification of an operational hotel under Heritage category has been received from the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

(c) Does not arise.

Losses suffered by ITDC

2412. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while on the one hand ITDC is running into substantial losses, its senior officials have been unauthorisedly occupying rooms and luxury suites in the city's ITDC hotels;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) the estimated annual loss, additional loss suffered by ITDC as a result thereof, and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) 3 Senior officials were occupying residential accommodation in hotels. Strict instructions have been issued to get these vacated with immediate effect.

(c) In view of lean occupancy in hotels round the year, deduction of 12½% of basic pay for such accommodation and saving of lease rent they are otherwise entitled, ITDC has not suffered loss on this account.

(d) The management has decided to charge penal/market rent for unauthorized occupation.

India as tourist destination

2413. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Business Standard on 26th October, 2001 given by the Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization wherein he observed that "India as a tourism destination has been overtaken by China";

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to remove infrastructural constraints and bureaucratic delays so as to make India as the most-favoured tourist destination?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has taken various steps to make India a more attractive tourist destination. To counteract the impact of the terrorist attack on World Trade Centre in New York (USA) Govt. had announced a Seven-Point Programme. These seven points are: (i) Do not ring alarm bells too often; (ii) Propagate India as a safe and secure destination; (iii) Step-up marketing in the Western and Northern World; (iv) Break new grounds in the East and South, particularly with regard to China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore and Australia; (v) Give Special boost to domestic tourism, particularly the tourism connected with pilgrimage and use the new facilities and